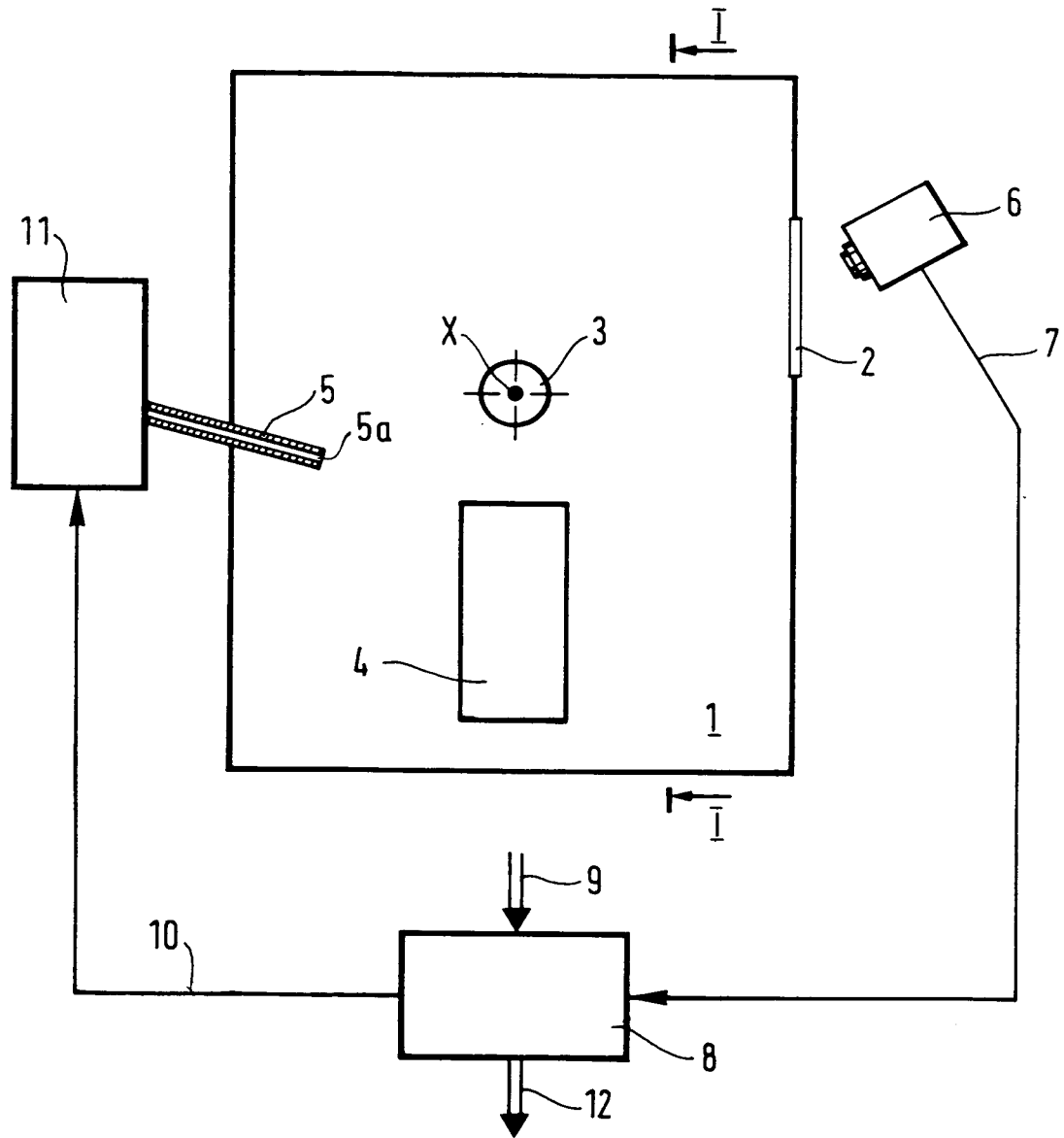


FIG. 1



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FIG. 2

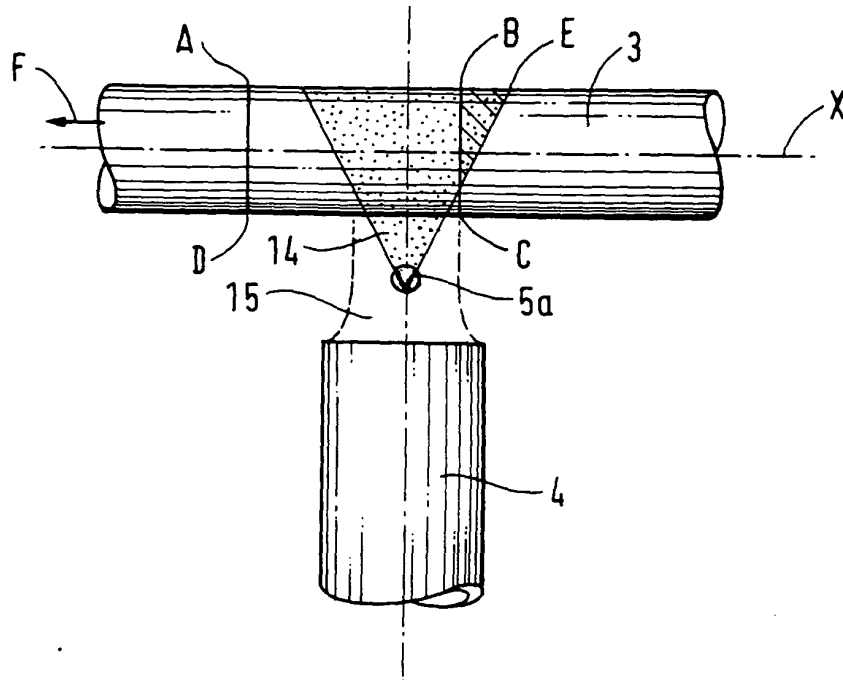


FIG. 3

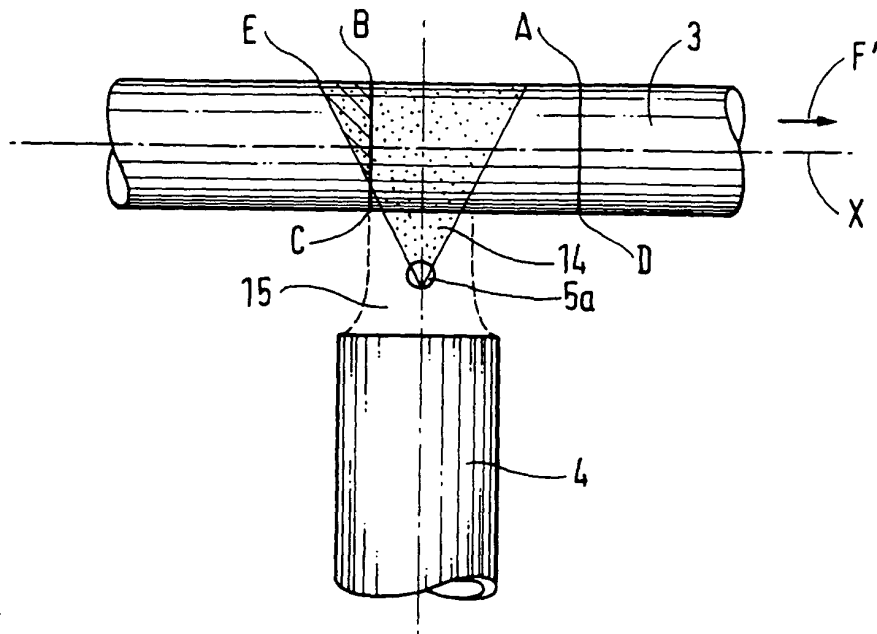


Fig. 1 is a schematic diagram of a laser cutting process. A laser beam (14) is focused through a lens (15) onto a workpiece (3). The workpiece is being cut by a cutting head (4) moving along a guide (d). The cut surface is labeled 5a. A force F is applied to the workpiece, and a distance X is indicated.